



Hardware Evolution of Control Electronics

David Gwaltney and Jim Steincamp, NASA MSFC

M. I. Ferguson, JPL

- ♦ Exploration of the application of hardware evolution to digital and analog control system design
 - Two application areas of interest
 - Analog circuit evolution using JPL developed 2nd generation Field Programmable Transistor Array (FPTA2)
 - Collaboration with JPL using JPL developed hardware and software to perform experiments at MSFC
 - Digital circuit evolution on FPGA's
 - Celoxica reconfigurable hardware
 - XESS XSV-800 Virtex Prototyping Board
 - JBits software – Java API developed by Xilinx under DARPA funding
 - Initial Experiments
 - Current Control
 - Motor-driven Actuator Control
 - Fitness based on minimization of error and control output
- ♦ Goals
 - Embedded controllers in which the hardware can be evolved to perform control functions that were not conceived before system deployment.
 - Control electronics that can evolve to operate more reliably in harsh conditions
 - Adaptation to changing environment
 - Intrinsic Fault Tolerance
 - Evolution of Hybrid controllers

